

(22) W M-801

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE

## Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: January 22, 1959

SUBJECT: Newsweek Article on So-called "Murphy Plan"

PARTICIPANTS: M. Herve Alphand, French Ambassador  
 M. Charles Lucet, French Minister  
 Mr. Livingston T. Merchant, Assistant Secretary  
 Mr. Martin Hillenbrand, GER  
 Mr. Dean Brown, WE

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In the course of a conversation on other subjects Ambassador Alphand referred to the Newsweek article which cited a so-called "Murphy plan" for Germany. He said that the press had not made much of it here but it had had a large press play in France. He then read from the AFP (AFP3-A of Jan. 22 Paris Press Roundup), quoting at length from a violent attack on Mr. Murphy by Aurore.

Mr. Merchant said that the Newsweek article and the Alsop piece had not had their origin in the State Department. He termed these most unfortunate, untrue press speculation. In reply to the Ambassador's question, he suggested that a denial be made to the AFP. Mr. Merchant instructed Mr. Hillenbrand to inform Mr. Berding or Mr. White of our approval of any denial the Ambassador wished to make.

Immediately after this meeting the Ambassador was assailed by the press in the corridor. He issued the denial which was picked up by the AFP. (AFP96-A, Jan. 22).

(Mr. Murphy was shown copies of both press ticker items. He asked Mr. Brown to convey to Ambassador Alphand his thanks for his prompt and effective denial of this untrue story. This was done.)

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